Production of oilseeds and pulses in Madhya Pradesh

†3666. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with a view to increase the production of oilseeds and pulses with Japanese assistance in the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh, a proposal of Rs. 108.15 crores has been sent by the Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) by when the sanction is likely to be accorded to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) A project proposal for maximizing the oilseeds and pulses production in Budelkhand region seeking assistance under Japanese Technical Cooperation Programme was received from State Government of Madhya Pradesh and same was forwarded to Deptt. of Economic Affairs. In response, Department of Economic Affairs indicated that assistance from Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is available only for facility construction and equipment supply under Japanese grant-in-aid assistance and requested the State Government to submit revised proposal in the prescribed format. The revised proposal for Rs. 94.05 crores has been received by this Ministry in May, 2006 and a copy has been sent to the Department of Economic Affairs for posing it to Donar Agency.

Increase in prices of pulses

3667. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 1182 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd March, 2006 and state:

(a) whether Government are aware that inspite of the imports of pulses made during 2004-05 and 2005-06, the prices of pulses continued to rise in the open market during the months of January to April, 2006;

(b) if so, the extent of increase in the prices of various kinds of pulses during the period; and

(c) the steps Government propose to ensure adequate availability of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

pulses at reasonable prices to the consumers before the arrival of kharif 2006 crop of pulses in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) A point to point comparison of the monthly Wholesale Price Indices (WPI) of important Pulses during January—March, 2005 & January—March, 2006 is shown below:—

Wholesale Price Index for Pulses (Base: 1993-94=100)

Pulses	Jan. 05	Jan. 06	% Increase	Feb. 05	Feb. 06	% Increase	March 05	Mar 06 (Prov.)	% Increase
Gram	136.8	172.1	25.8	135.9	169.1	24.4	135.8	166.1	22.3
Arhar	171.3	171.1	-0.1	165.8	164.5	-0.8	161.1	168.8	4.8
Moong	191.6	230.3	20.2	187.4	252.3	34.6	188.9	246.3	30.4
Masur	237.0	242.6	2.4	230.4	239.4	3.9	227.4	238.4	4.8
Urad	219.2	313.7	43.1	215.3	340.9	58.3	210.5	317.9	51.0
TOTAL Pulses	173.9	209.5	20.5	170.6	215.2	26.1	168.8	210.2	24.5

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry

(c) Efforts are made to keep the prices of pulses within reasonable level through increase in domestic production and imports. A Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Pulses, Oilseeds, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) is under implementation to increase productivity and production of pulses. The domestic production is estimated to have increase from 131.3 lakh tones in 2004-05 to 139.2 lakh tones during 2005-06. Since the domestic production of pulses remains inadequate as compared to the demand; imports are also resorted to keep the prices under check.

Economic viability of agriculture

3668. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of NSSO survey, stating that Agriculture, since the beginning of the Ninth-Five-Year Plan has been rendered economically unviable;